

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am pleased to sign Senate Bill 1448, legislation that will provide access to \$540 million in new federal funds for health care services for uninsured Californians. This bill will enable California to test innovative strategies to provide health care coverage to low-income uninsured residents using increased federal funding that I secured through negotiations with the federal government last year as a part of the renewal of California's hospital financing waiver.

SB 1448 is a product of a bipartisan effort to access increased federal funds to better serve uninsured low-income Californians. Working together, the Legislature and Administration have crafted an approach that will direct federal monies to programs that best demonstrate their ability to serve the uninsured; can begin enrollment in a timely manner; provide patients with a medical home and primary care provider; and promote the use of early intervention and prevention services, thereby reducing financial stress on safety net hospitals. SB 1448 is intended to build upon and strengthen the local health care safety net system; therefore, applicants will be required to demonstrate how the proposed health care coverage program will promote existing safety net health care systems.

SB 1448 will provide valuable health care services to uninsured Californians, test alternative models to provide this coverage, and provide support to critical health care safety net providers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger